

The Thomas Osborn House
Near Parsippany
Morris County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Thomas Osborn House
Near Parsippany
Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Farrand N. Benedict, 33 So. Maple Avenue,
East Orange, New Jersey

Date of Erection: About 1800

Architect: Unknown

Builder: (supposed) Thomas Osborn (1753-1818)

Present Condition: Original, well maintained

Number of Stories: Two, with garret and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame

Interior walls - lath and plaster on
studding

Chimneys - brick, built into inside of
gable end walls

Roof - gambrel, wood shingled, now covered by
modern asbestos

Historical Data:

The gravestone inscription of "Deacon Thomas Osborn", (to whom the title to this house has been traced in the County records) states that he died 27 July 1818, aged 64-9-15, that of "Mary, consort of Thomas Osborn" that she died 5 May 1801, and that "Hannah Howell Minton, 2nd consort of Thomas Osborn", that she died 20 March 1829, aged 65-9-15(a). Thomas Osborn and Hannah Minton, both of Morris County, were married on 19 July 1801 by the Rev. William Van Horn of Scotch Plains(b). Hannah Minton was then widow of Major Lemuel Minton who had died 11 March 1795 aged 38, and was born Hannah Howell,

(a) Inscriptions from gravestones in Presbyterian Cemetery in the village of Parsippany.

(b) Morris County Clerk's marriage records, publ. in Genealog. Mag. N. J., IV, 121

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daughter of Gideon and Sarah (Gordon) Howell(c). By her first husband she had, with other children, a daughter Sarah Minton, born in 1791, who died 10 October 1827, having married on 1 October 1807 Royal Hopkins (d), and by her second husband, Thomas Osborn, a daughter Mary A. Osborn, born 25 April 1802, who died 16 April 1872(a) having married Hiram Smith, and of whom further mention will appear.

Thomas Osborn, first abovenamed, having died intestate, his widow Hannah Osborn and her son-in-law Royal Hopkins, as administrators, petitioned the Orphans' Court at its March term in 1819 for an order of sale of his real estate to settle his debts.

By deed of 3 May 1823, Hiram Smith Jr. and Mary A. his wife "late Mary A. Osborn the daughter of Thomas Osborn deceased", of Hanover Township, conveyed to Royal Hopkins (abovesaid) of same place, for \$2810.25 two lots in Hanover Township, formerly those of said Thomas Osborn, the first of which, was the 112 acre homestead farm bounding on the south side of the road from Parsippany village to Morristown and the west side of the intersecting road from George D. Brinkerhoff's house southward to Halseytown, the tract extending southeasterly across the latter road. The house stands on the west side of that road.

By deed of 2nd of March 1835, Royal Hopkins of Hanover, the grantee abovenamed, conveyed the same property to Charles A. DeHart of same place, for \$4000, describing it as "formerly the homestead farm of Thomas Osborne now deceased," and by deed of 8 March 1836, said DeHart with wife Sarah Jane, of Newark, New Jersey, sold the same to Henry Boughton of New York City for \$3700. The last named, being then of Hanover, Morris County, New Jersey, and apparently occupying this house, conveyed the same to Theodore Chamberlain of Hoboken, New Jersey, on

(c) Hist. of First Presbyterian Ch., Morristown, pp. 111, 177, 309

(d) Same as (b), p. 60, and as (c) p. 308.

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9 June 1854 for \$12000. On 23 April 1857, William S. Chamberlain of New York City passed it to Ferrand N. Benedict of Hanover, New Jersey for \$10,500, subject to mortgages of 8,100 executed by Theodore Chamberlain to Henry Boughton abovesaid.

Ferrand N. Benedict, abovenamed grantee, being of Parsippany (Hanover Township) Morris County, conveyed the farm to Andrew J. Smith of Andover, Mass., by deed of 29 September 1859, retaining a life right therein for himself and his wife. Pursuant to proceedings foreclosing the mortgages above mentioned, the property was seized by sheriff and conveyed by his deed of 13 March, 1863 to Aaron Pierson of Andover, Massachusetts. Finally by deed of 14 December 1864 Lizzie B. Pierson also of Andover, Mass., conveyed the same farm back to Ferrand N. Benedict, describing it as consisting of two tracts, the 100 acre homestead farm and a 30 acre woodland adjacent on the southeast thereof. A map of Parsippany, Hanover Township, appearing in Beers' Atlas of Morris County 1868, shows the house then in possession of F. N. Benedict. Mr. Benedict, of East Orange, remains in possession of the homestead at the time of our survey of the house in 1940, but occupies it in the summer only.

We have been informed that the smaller house standing across the road and facing the front of the house here surveyed (see photo) originally comprised the kitchen wing of the latter and was removed thence to its present site about 1860. Tradition to the effect that Governor William Livingston found refuge in this house in Parsippany when the British sought to capture him at Liberty Hall, his seat near Elizabeth, in the Revolution, has been impossible to certify. Inquiry addressed to the present owner has failed of response.

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Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and
Probate records of Morris County
by James P. Richards Jr., H.A.B.S.
abstractor

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
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District Officer

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